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The Louisa Alcott Reader. A Supplementary Reader for the Fourth Year of School. By LOUISA M. ALCOTT. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Pp. 222, illustrated.

Just why this book should be designed for fourth-year and not for third- or fifth-year pupils is not quite clear. Of course Miss Alcott is a prime favorite with girls, but most girls can be trusted to read her books if they are in any degree accessible at home. An old-fashioned idea of school may be dominating the commentator who feels that something more significant as literature on the one hand, or really valuable related information on the other, such as may reinforce his study, should form the bulk of a child's school reading. The charm of Miss Alcott's books is undeniable. They furnish the sweet meat and sugar plum of children's reading at a certain period.

B. P.

A Little Land and a Living. By BOLTON HALL. New York: Arcadia Press, 1908. Pp. 287. \$1.

Two years ago there appeared a book of striking title—*Three Acres and Liberty*—but a book of equally striking content. It was designed to make clear to overcrowded, underfed, and more or less uncomfortable city people that the small farm can be made to make a good living for a family, and that the amount of energy expended by a worker in the shop will give larger returns upon the small farm. We now have from the same author a second book, *A Little Land and a Living*, this being a sequel to the first and having been designed to help solve the problems of who shall go to the farms, how shall they be got to go, to what kind of farms should they go, and what should they try to grow upon the farms.

Mr. Hall asserts that "there is more money to be made out of the soil, if you go at it intelligently, than there is in any endeavor that is open to every one." It is urged that if those who are living in conditions that render adequate food and good hygienic conditions impossible, were to secure a small piece of ground, an acre or less, usually they would find that this small piece of ground would make possible plenty of food, good air and the feeling of independence that comes with doing something that is worth while. Often these people should secure this land sufficiently near the city to make possible a daily trip to city work when such may be had. Abandoned farm lands may be had for small sums, and under the free guidance of the United States Department of Agriculture, they may soon be made productive. The availability of the market must always be kept in mind. Vacant lot gardening has never been fully developed, and offers very great opportunities. All well-organized plans for utilization of vacant lots have given valuable money returns, but have done a much greater service in giving new purpose and opening new opportunities to fully or well-nigh discouraged people. Intensive farming makes possible much valuable farming within most city limits, and a very large amount of it quite near all cities. Meantime the general health, attractiveness, and land values are enhanced. "One-sixth of an acre planted in radishes and lettuce, followed by